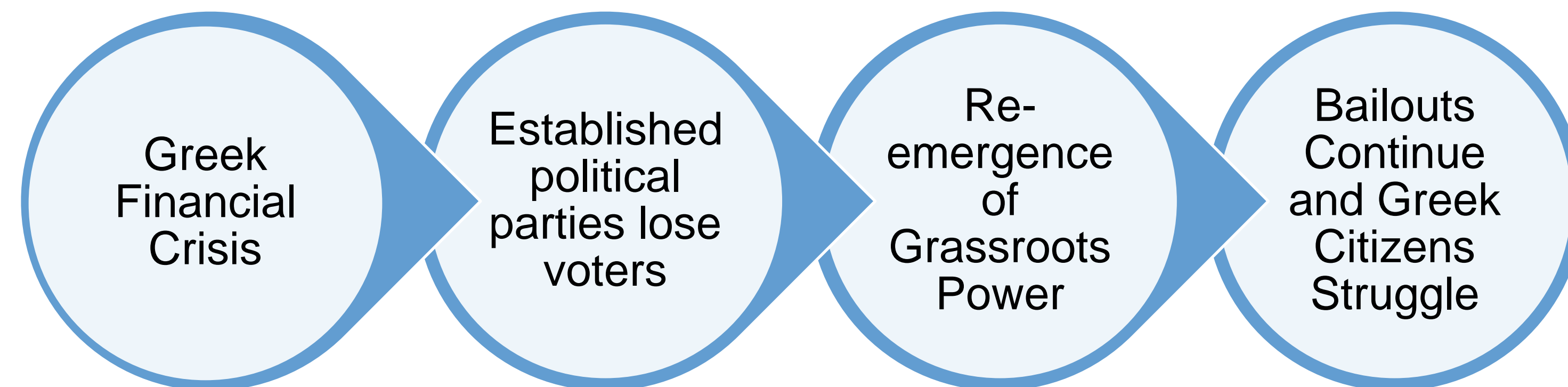
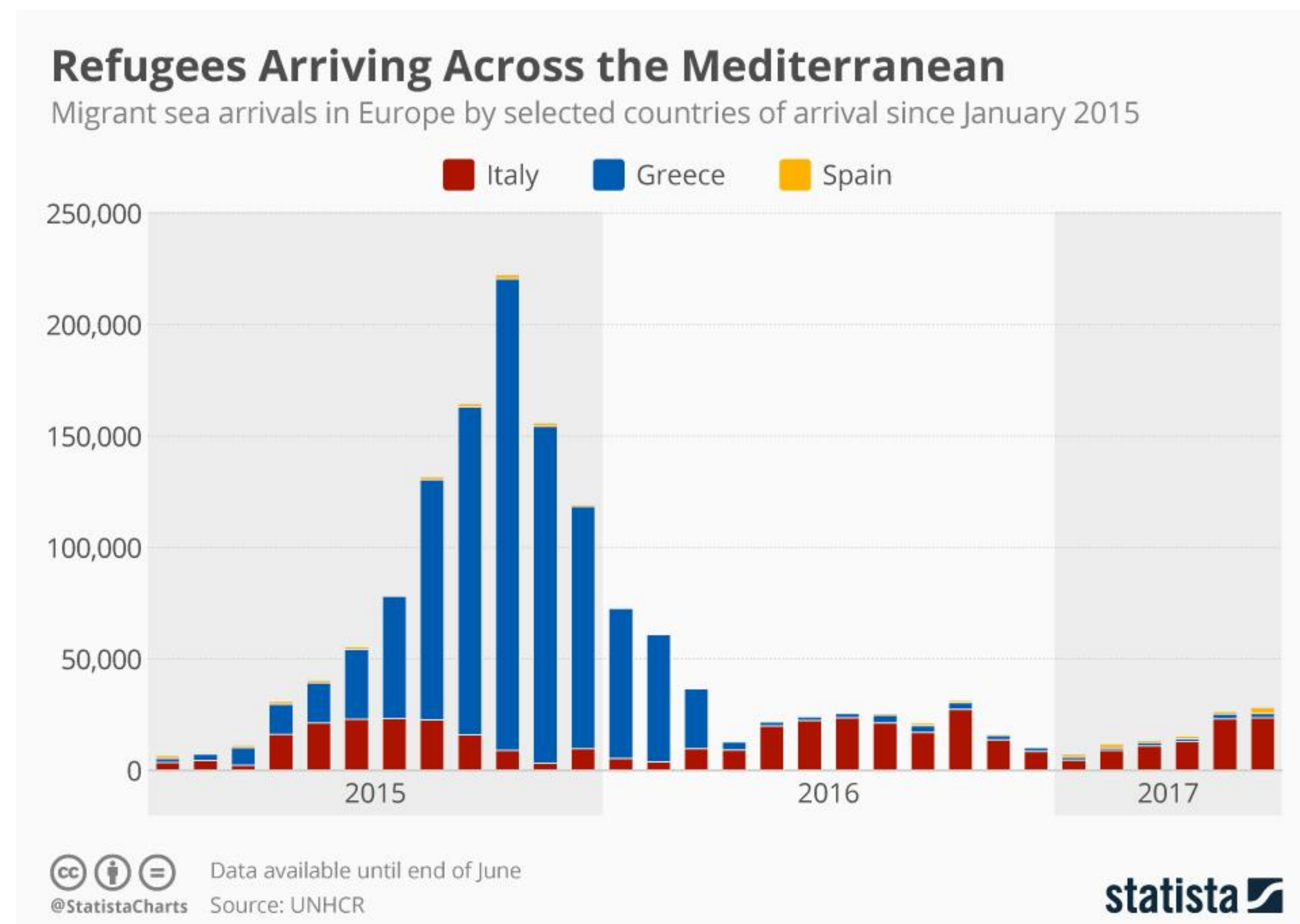


## Greek Political Struggle and Influx of Refugees in Greece



The 2012 and 2015 elections of the far-left and far-right coalitional government in Greece gained power through anti-European and anti-austerity rhetoric. As activist and anarchist groups reestablished their political power in recent years through social protest in urban settings, occupying abandoned buildings, and developing solidarity economies and institutional alternatives, it was thought that the 2012 and 2015 elections would solve decades of bureaucratic mismanagement. Instead, Greek citizens continue to struggle as they are most affected by imposed austerity measures following the financial crisis.



Due to the lack of regulation of Greece's northern border and a disorganized asylum process system, a majority of refugees arriving in Greece used the country to transit to wealthier EU member states; this led to the EU-Turkey deal in 2016 to block more refugees from 'illegally' entering Europe. The enactment of the deal also left 63,000 refugees trapped in Greece waiting for their asylum applications to be processed in their country of first arrival.

## Summary

This poster is part of an undergraduate thesis analyzing the struggle of both Greek citizens and refugees and asylum seekers 'trapped' in Greece. Understanding this historical narrative of political discontent amongst Greek nationals in recent decades is imperative to future public policy initiatives addressing the effects of the commercialization of common land in Greece that reduced affordable housing and community meeting places for Athenians along leading to abandoned real estate following the 2010 financial crisis. Clientelism, capital accumulation initiatives, and nationalistic rhetoric have led the Greek state to discard its humanitarian responsibilities to both citizens and refugees in the most recent years.

## Refugee Accommodation and Solidarity Space City Plaza

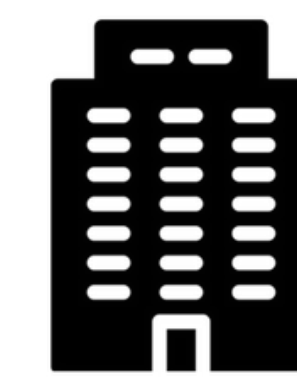
The Refugee Accommodation and Solidarity Space City Plaza was first established as alternative housing for refugees in 2016, after activists seized the abandoned 5-star Hotel City Plaza in the heart of Athens. The activists who founded the accommodation center state that their actions are a political protest against the Greek government and supranational institutions to provide adequate housing for refugees where they are visible and able to integrate with Greek citizens.

The accommodation center has been widely reported on by international news sources due to its direct aid and refusal to accept financial support from NGOs and other donor agencies. Volunteers will continue to maintain the space so long as no further legal action against the group occurs.



Source: Refugee Accommodation and Solidarity Space City Plaza (2017). Facebook.

## Refugee Accommodation and Solidarity Space City Plaza



Provides accommodations for 400 individuals and families



800 meals prepared daily



Onsite clinic and pharmacy



Weekly education and language classes



Coffee bar serves as a gathering space for community meetings and cultural events



View of the former hotel and now refugee accommodation center

Source: Camilli, Political Critique 2017

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